

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5621
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPARTMENT FOR ASSY SECY VEST

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND MR. CLIFT

FROM AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CB, NO
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL
CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

REF: (A) OSLO 1481, (B) STATE 84003

1. A GROUP OF NORWEGIAN CITIZENS WITH SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL SUPPORT
FROM ALL MAJOR PARTIES IS ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL
CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL APRIL 21-23 IN OSLO FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SPOTLIGHTING THE HORROR OF THE PRESENT HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. AFTER REVIEWING THE BONAFIDES
OF THE NORWEGIAN SPONSORS AND SATISFYING OURSELVES
AS TO THE PROFESSIONAL AND TRULY APOLITICAL NATURE OF
THEIR APPROACH TO THE HEARINGS, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED
(REF A) THAT WE SUPPORT (ALBEIT IN A LOW-KEY FASHION)
THEIR EFFORT. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THEM
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SINCE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S ENDORSEMENT (REF B).

2. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRIBUNAL ARE CLEARLY IN FULL
ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS.
I AM CONTACTING YOU BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE HAS ASKED
WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT, THE
VICE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY TO ISSUE IN WASHINGTON A SHORT

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE TRIBUNAL AND ITS OBJECTIVES
BEFORE THE OPENING SESSION APRIL 21. IF IT IS AT ALL
FEASIBLE, I WOULD RECOMMEND MOST STRONGLY THAT A
STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THAT BELOW BE MADE.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS OFFERED AS A POSSIBLE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT
OF THE CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL TO BE HELD IN OSLO FROM APRIL 21-23:

QUOTE

I HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED DURING THE LAST YEAR BY A NUMBER OF
EXAMPLES OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. WE HAVE
ALL READ WITH SATISFACTION OF THE RELEASES OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND OF OTHER DEVELOP-
MENTS WHICH SEEM TO REFLECT A HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF THE VALUE
OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS BASIC RIGHTS. IN THIS CONNECTION
I HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN OF A PRIVATE INITIATIVE BEING
TAKEN IN NORWAY WHICH SEEKS THROUGH TESTIMONY AND PUBLIC
QUESTIONING TO ILLUMINATE THE TRAGIC SITUATION EXISTING IN
CAMBODIA TODAY. I ENDORSE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL HEARINGS AND HOPE THAT BY SHEDDING LIGHT
ON THE SITUATION THERE, WORLD OPINION CAN BE ENGAGED IN THE
EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION. END QUOTE.

LERNER

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